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SENATE

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MARY BOUESSA DEEB

JULY 1 (legislative day, JUNE 27), 1952.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. McCARRAN, from the Committee on the Judiciary, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 2479]

The Committee on the Judiciary, to which was referred the bill (S. 2479) for the relief of Mary Bouessa Deeb, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of the bill is to enable Mary Bouessa Deeb to enjoy the immigration status of a person who was born in Canada.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The beneficiary of the bill is a citizen of Canada who was born in Syria on April 27, 1923. She entered Canada in December 1923 with her parents and she has resided in Canada since that time. She was married to a Canadian citizen who died in 1948 following injuries suffered while a member of the Canadian armed forces. She has a son who was born in Canada in 1946.

A letter, with attached memorandum, dated May 22, 1952, to the chairman of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary from the Deputy Attorney General with reference to the case reads as follows:

MAY 22, 1952.

HON. PAT McCARRAN,
*Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
United States Senate, Washington, D. C.*

MY DEAR SENATOR: This is in response to your request for the views of the Department of Justice relative to the bill (S. 2479) for the relief of Mary Bouessa Deeb. The bill would provide that in the administration of the immigration laws Mary Bouessa Deeb shall be deemed to have been born in Canada. The purpose of the bill is to enable Mrs. Deeb, who was born in Syria, to acquire a nonquota status in the issuance of an immigration visa.

There is attached a memorandum prepared by the Immigration and Naturalization Service of this Department setting forth the facts in Mrs. Deeb's case.

Section 12 (a) of the Immigration Act of 1924 specifically provides that, for the purposes of that act, nationality shall be determined by the country of birth. Mrs. Deeb is, therefore, chargeable to the quota for Syria, which is oversubscribed and an immigration visa is not readily obtainable. In this respect, her case is similar to those of many other aliens who desire to enter the United States for permanent residence but who are unable to do so under the general immigration laws because of the oversubscribed condition of the quotas to which they are chargeable. The record fails to present any facts which would justify the enactment of special legislation to exempt Mrs. Deeb from the operation of the general immigration laws.

Accordingly, the Department of Justice is unable to recommend the enactment of this bill.

Sincerely,

A. DEVIIT VANECH,
Deputy Attorney General.

MEMORANDUM OF INFORMATION FROM IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION
SERVICE FILES RE MARY BOUESSA DEEB, BENEFICIARY OF S. 2479

Mrs. Deeb, nee Bouessa, a citizen of Canada, was born in Syria on April 17, 1923. She arrived in Canada during December 1923, with her parents, who also were born in Syria, and she has resided in Canada since that time. The record reflects that her father, a citizen of Canada, resides in Montreal, Canada, and that her mother is deceased.

Mrs. Deeb was married on May 2, 1943, to Mr. George Leslie Franklin Deeb, who was born in Canada on January 8, 1917. Mr. Deeb, who served in the Canadian Army during World War II, died in a Canadian hospital on April 23, 1948, of service-connected injuries. The record reveals that Mrs. Deeb had been employed during World War II by the Canadian manufacturing firms of Canadian Vickers, Ltd., and the Defense Industries, Ltd.

Ronald Leslie Deeb, Mrs. Deeb's son, who was born in Canada on March 16, 1946, arrived in the United States at Detroit, Mich., on September 5, 1950, was admitted as a visitor for a period of 3 months. He is presently residing, in the status of a visitor, with a Salt Lake City family, who, through the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, agreed to care for the child.

A person born in Canada is eligible for a nonquota status in the issuance of an immigration visa under section 4 (c) of the Immigration Act of 1924. The instant bill would change Mrs. Deeb's place of birth from that of Syria to that of Canada to facilitate her entry into the United States for permanent residence as a nonquota immigrant.

Senator Wallace Bennett, coauthor of the bill with Senator Arthur V. Watkins, has submitted to the Senate Committee on the Judiciary the following information in connection with the bill:

UNITED STATES SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
May 9, 1952.

Hon. PAT MCCARRAN,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
United States Senate, Washington, D. C.

DEAR SENATOR MCCARRAN: On January 22 I introduced, for myself and Senator Watkins, S. 2479, which was referred to your committee. S. 2479 is a bill for the relief of Mary Bouessa Deeb.

Mrs. Deeb was born in Syria on April 17, 1923, and almost immediately after her birth immigrated with her parents to Canada, arriving there prior to 1924. Even though she has lived her entire life in Canada as a Canadian citizen she is, because of technicality of rule, chargeable to the Syrian quota which as you know is greatly oversubscribed. The purpose of my legislation is to classify her for immigration purposes as if she had been born in Canada, and thus permit her early immigration to the United States.

I am enclosing herewith a memorandum summarizing the facts of the case, and I am also enclosing letters from various individuals who are acquainted with the merits of Mrs. Deeb's case.

I would appreciate it if this matter could be favorably reported by your committee at the earliest possible date. If I can be of any further assistance to you in this case, please advise me.

Very truly yours,

WALLACE F. BENNETT.

MEMORANDUM: IMMIGRATION CASE OF MARY BOUESSA DEEB, S. 2479

Mrs. Mary Bouessa Deeb was born in Bezzac, Syria, on April 17, 1923. Her father is Abraham Bouessa, who was also born in Bezzac, Syria, but now resides at 972 Laurier Street East, Montreal, Canada. Her mother was Thelma Elias, who was born in Syria, but died in Canada when Mrs. Deeb was 8 years of age.

After the birth of Mrs. Deeb, she, her mother and father migrated to Canada in December of 1923, landing at New York en route and arriving in Montreal before 1924. Mrs. Deeb, then the child Mary Bouessa, was sent to a boarding school by the Woman's Missionary Society of the United Church of Canada, where she spent about 7 years and then returned to Montreal to finish her schooling. The boarding school was located about 18 miles from Montreal.

Mrs. Deeb was first employed with the Canadian Vickers, Ltd., in the accounting department. That company was engaged in making airplanes and ships for the last war. She remained in that employment for 2½ years, and was extremely active in the functions of the company in a social and recreational way, and in her own social circle. She left her employment to be married to George Leslie Franklin Deeb on May 2, 1943. Her husband was born in Montreal on January 2, 1917, and was a Canadian citizen who served in World War II from 1939 until 1942, most of the time overseas. He was in France at the time of the German 1940 break-through and he died of injuries incident to the war on April 23, 1948.

Following her marriage, Mrs. Deeb spent 2 years in Defense Industries, Ltd., another war plant manufacturing bullets, and while there did considerable Red Cross work. On March 16, 1946, a son, Ronald Leslie Deeb, was born to the couple. After the birth of her child Mrs. Deeb's husband was hospitalized and finally died some 15 months later.

Mrs. Deeb has apparently lived all of her life except the first few months of her infancy in or near Montreal, Canada. She is a Canadian citizen. In 1951 she spent approximately 6 months in Salt Lake City, where she is well acquainted and has numerous friends. She has now returned to Lethbridge, Canada, where she is presently employed. Mrs. Deeb is a faithful and active member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, whose headquarters are centered in the State of Utah, and as is the case with many of the members of that church, she is extremely anxious to go to that locality to live because it is the center of the activity and the affairs of her faith.

Letters forwarded with this memorandum indicate that not only is her character above reproach, but that she is capable of engaging in productive employment to provide her own livelihood. She has numerous friends in the United States who speak favorably for her, and in addition to the attached letters of recommendation additional letters are in the files of Senator Wallace F. Bennett.

If Mrs. Deeb were a native-born Canadian she could immigrate to the United States with little or no delay, but because she spent a few months as a new-born child in Syria, she is technically precluded from entering the United States except under the Syrian quota.

In addition, Senator Bennett has submitted a number of letters and recommendations in behalf of the beneficiary of the bill.

The committee, after consideration of all the facts in the case, is of the opinion that the bill (S. 2479) should be enacted.

